

Marriage is For Men and Women Who Love God and One Another

Pt. 2 Why Marriage Fails so Often

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss a number of reasons why marriages do not measure up to God's standard.
2. Matt. 22:37 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind"
3. What is Failure in marriage?
 - a. Divorce is of course a failure
 - b. But it does not have to end in divorce to be a failure.
 - c. Marriage as God intended it was to help men and women enjoy life and help one another prepare to be with God in heaven. And if it does not do this it is a failure.
4. "Taboo" to discuss marriage a few years ago - men went to the other extreme and brought it out in the open, made it sordid, ugly and evil.
 - a. Most in the church decided to keep quiet
 - b. The Bible writers didn't - they discussed marriage on a high and holy place.
5. Marriage is honorable in the sight of God - Heb. 13:4
 - a. Honorable = valuable, precious, esteemed
 - b. God designed us to be married.
 - c. God also gave us some regulations as to how we can make marriage what it should be.
6. Many marriages are failing and the Bible can give us information on how to prevent such failures.

Discussion

I. BECAUSE THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THEM FAIL AS PERSONS

- A. Marriages fail because inadequate person are inadequate partners - they are not guided by the Bible
 - 1. Both must be adequate partners
 - 2. One partner may be all right but it takes two adequate partners.
- B. It takes two to have a fight, so it takes two adequate partners to have a successful marriage.

II. BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE COMMITMENT

- A. What do we commit ourselves to when we go through the wedding ceremony?
 - 1. Till death do us part
 - 2. In sickness and in health
 - 3. In prosperity and in adversity
- B. Practically a permanent, unconditional surrender
- C. We need to remember what we committed ourselves to !

III. BECAUSE OF IMMATURITY

- A. During life people pass through 3 stages
 - 1. Period of dependence - others must help = childhood
 - 2. Period of independence - seek to be free from authority = adolescence
 - 3. Period of inter-dependence - seeks good for all = maturity

- B. Trouble in marriages usually occurs because some people never pass from the second stage, they remain an adolescent
 - 1. "I'll take my ball and go home if I'm not 1st batter"
 - 2. Many marriages fail because people do not mature.
- C. No one is mature until he learns and PRACTICES this great truth "It is more blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20:35b
- D. Selfishness has ruined and is ruining many a marriage !

IV. BECAUSE OF UNFAIR OR HARSH CRITICISM

- A. A marriage is in trouble when one or both partners fall into the habit of criticizing or constantly looking for that which is wrong !
 - 1. We say "I'm doing this for your good."
 - 2. Usually we are trying to make our self feel superior
 - 3. Criticism tends to end in self-righteousness
 - 4. People who start this usually end up criticizing everything.
- B. What can we do about this?
 - 1. Recognize that this is not the way of Christ
 - 2. Pray to think on the good things
 - 3. Concentrate on the good
 - 4. You can continue to love the other in spite of his / her weaknesses
 - 5. Sit down and talk over your problems like two Christian in love

V. **TOO SENSITIVE**

- A. Sometimes we are sensitive in a right way and sometimes in a wrong way !
1. Selfish, immature people are only sensitive to needs of themselves.
 2. Unselfish, mature people are sensitive to the needs of fellow man
- B. Many times we are too sensitive when our companion gives criticism
1. None of us is perfect - Phil. 3:12-13 "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,"
 2. Sometimes criticism helps us to do better, faster
 3. We receive criticism from other's than our companion
 4. Instead of striking back, write down your feelings, and keep it for one week.
 5. Refuse to criticize when criticized
 6. Don't allow self-pity to come into your heart !
 7. Become so interested in serving Christ that you forget to wear your feelings on your sleeves !
- C. If you'll get busy serving God, you'll not be so sensitive to little things. You'll be happier because of it. Remove the chip from your shoulder.

VI. ONE OR BOTH PARTNERS ARE TORN ASUNDER BY INNER CONFLICTS

- A. Each may be a house divided against itself
 - 1. They have a civil war within themselves
 - 2. Conflicts that leads to nervous breakdowns
 - 3. Not at war with others but with themself.
- B. Why does this cause marriages to fail?
 - 1. This inner war causes them to be inadequate partners
 - 2. They are not able to be the kind of partner they should be!
 - 3. They rob their companions of happiness
- C. The way to overcome this conflict is to study and live by the BEATITUDES Matt. 5

VII. FAILURE OR LACK OF TRUST IN ONE ANOTHER

- A. Jealousy and mistrust are so destructive
 - 1. Destroys many a marriage
 - 2. Causes unhappiness
- B. Husbands and wives should have such trust in one another that they could be thousands of miles apart and neither one would ever think that the other would be unfaithful to their marriage vow.
- C. We must be worthy of trust
 - 1. Song of Solomon 8:6 "Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame."
 - 2. We should be trustworthy
 - 3. 1 Cor. 13:7 - believeth all things

VIII. ANOTHER REASON FOR FAILURE IS A FAILURE IN PHYSICAL INTIMACY

- A. Sex is the "Added Language" that is given to married couples by God. This added language is that way we express the depths of our love!
 - 1. It is given only to married couples as an extra language of love
 - 2. Many who are not married attempt to speak this language. But it ends in sorrow.
- B. Some people are ignorant of Bible teaching - therefore they view the marriage union in a distorted view.
 - 1. Marriage is honorable - Heb. 13:4
 - 2. The physical intimacy of husband and wife is pure and holy - 1 Cor. 7:1-5
 - 3. David said we are fearfully and wonderfully made - Ps. 139:14
- C. The physical side of marriage is important
 - 1. It enhances the love already present and causes it to grow.
 - 2. God has spoken on this matter, and we must not sit back and be quiet about the matter
 - 3. Because it is a source of happiness it can also produce unhappiness and misery if misused.

IX. BECAUSE OF A FAILURE IN KINDNESS, COURTESY, AND THOUGHTFULNESS

- A. 1 Cor. 13 is the chapter which deals with love
- B. Col. 3:19 "Be not bitter"
- C. When you truly love your companion, you will not be unkind
 - 1. Love guards against this
 - 2. Love is kind

- D. Just because the honeymoon is over is no reason to stop loving one another and being unkind to your partner.
- E. This is a source of much unhappiness and failures in marriages !

X. SOME MARRIAGES FAIL BECAUSE THEY DO NOT LEARN HOW TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

- A. No two people can live together for very long without some kind of conflict or difference of opinion arising.
- B. Married people must learn to resolve this conflict !
 - 1. Some act as children about conflict
 - 2. This will cause your marriage to be a failure
- C. Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;"
- D. The reason conflict arises sometimes is because the wife wants to be the leader, the BOSS.
 - 1. When she is, all are tragic losers, husband, wife and children
 - 2. She can't respect her husband and she can't love him and he can't love her.
 - 3. Listen to what the Bible says. "The husband is to rule over the wife" and the wife is to be submit herself to her husband - Eph. 5
 - 4. A woman who is the leader and boss is much like a dog trying to walk on its hind legs - it looks awkward !
 - 5. The Husband must do his part in being the leader of the family. He must not just say that he will give this responsibility to the wife. It is HIS responsibility.

XI. MANY FAIL BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

- A. The young groom does not make as much as the bride would like
 - 1. Her father has footed all her bills before marriage
 - 2. Now she expects the same from her husband
- B. Many young couples [and some older ones too] overspend their income
 - 1. When bills come there is not enough money to pay them
 - 2. Nerves become frayed, tempers flare
 - 3. Unless we are mature then a battle may result.
- C. This has caused many failures in marriages.

XII. SOME MARRIAGES FAIL BECAUSE THE HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE NOT UNITED IN CHRIST

- A. Problems arise from this situation
 - 1. We need each other in spiritual development
 - 2. Wife devoted Christian - husband may not like her doing so much for the church
 - can cause trouble
 - Vice Versa - Husband Christian and wife not
 - 3. A Christian's children will be raised by one who is not a Christian
- B. This needs to be thought about and discussed before marriage
- C. If you are married to someone who is not a Christian, then you should do your best to live so you can convert your partner
- D. 1 Pet. 3:1,2 "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear."

CONCLUSION

1. Let love come into your marriage, and let it grow and grow and grow.
2. Love is the very foundation of marriage
 - a. Love is joy singing
 - b. Peace is love resting
 - c. Long-suffering is love enduring
 - d. And Gentleness is loves true touch
3. Love one another
 - a. Realistically
 - b. Sacrificially
 - c. Without reservation
4. Marriage is for Men and Women who love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength
5. If two partners in marriage will truly love God and one another then their marriage will be a success .
 - a. It will cause you to be happy together here on earth
 - b. And you will be together in heaven.
6. Yes, marriage is truly for Men and Women who love God and one another !

Source:

Marriage is For Those Who Love God And One Another by Thomas B. Warren

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Feb. 8, 2009 - Sunday Evening
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